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Trial of ITT Official Won't Involve Contacts With CIA, Chile Aide

WASHINGTON (AP) — Opening a perjury trial against an official of the International Telephone & Telegraph Corp., federal prosecutors acted to steer clear of areas involving certain contacts with the Central Intelligence Agency and a high official of the government of Chile.

The official, Robert Berrellez, is one of two ITT employees who have been charged with lying to a Senate committee during a 1973 probe into alleged involvement in Chile's 1970 presidential elections by ITT and the CIA.

As the trial opened, District Judge Aubrey Robinson granted federal prosecutors permission to delete from the formal charges references to separate meetings between ITT official Harold Hendrix, a CIA official and former Chilean newspaper executive Hernan Cubillos. Mr. Hendrix is an unindicted coconspirator in the Berrellez case. Mr. Cubillos currently is Chile's foreign minister.

Mr. Berrellez and Edward J. Gerrity, another ITT official, were accused of lying under oath when they testified they didn't know that ITT, fearing the expropriation of its properties in Chile, had aided political foes of Salvador Allende, a Marxist who was assassinated in a coup after his election as Chile's president. Mr. Gerrity will be tried later.

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